

Attorney Docket No. 3817.14-1
Customer No. 23308

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 11, paragraph [00041], with the following amended paragraph:

[00041] The significant factor is that the core protein or “sponge” is readily available and for the purposes of this invention only one protein is required that has the requisite characteristics. The core protein is derived from mouse type 1 IP₃R1. The core protein is amino acids 226 – 578, although the naturally occurring N- and C- amino acids may be included, usually to provide a protein of not more than 1.5k amino acids, preferably not more than about 750 amino acids and more preferably not more than about 600 amino acids. The extension need not be the naturally occurring amino acids, and may total 1 – 500 amino acids, usually not more than about 1 to 300 amino acids. The core protein has at least about 200 times the affinity for IP₃ than the intact IP₃R. The additional amino acids may serve a variety of purposes, such as aiding in the purification of the core protein, aiding in the isolation of the complex between the core protein and an IP₃ derivative, causing steric inhibition of complementation with a peptide label to its cognate protein, or attachment to a surface or another molecule, where the surface may be a plate, a microtiter well wall, a particle, or the like.